

Remarks

Claims 1-30 remain pending. Claims 1-19, 21-27, 29 and 30 stand rejected. Claims 20 and 28 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but are otherwise allowable. The Assignee respectfully traverses the rejections and requests allowance of claims 1-30.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-19, 21-27, 29 and 30 stand rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of U.S. Patent No. 7,054,203. (Page 2 of the Office action.) In response, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c), along with an authorization to charge the associated fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d), is being filed herewith. Please note that submission of the terminal disclaimer is not an admission of obviousness of any claim of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,054,203, but represents an effort to expedite allowance of the claims.

In light of the terminal disclaimer, the Assignee contends that claims 1-19, 21-27, 29 and 30 are now allowable, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office action indicates that claims 20-28 stand “objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Pages 13 and 14 of the Office action.) The Assignee thanks the Examiner for his consideration of these claims.

Further, claims 20 and 28 depend from independent claims 14 and 22, respectively, thus incorporating the provisions of these independent claims. Thus, since claims 14 and 22 are allowable in light of the terminal disclaimer, the Assignee contends that claims 14 and 22 are allowable as well in their current form, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 20 and 28.

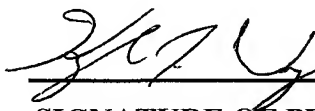
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Assignee submits that claims 1-30 are allowable. The Assignee thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-30.

The Assignee authorizes the Office to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025 the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) for the enclosed terminal disclaimer submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). The Assignee believes no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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